

December 29, 2004

Paul M. Blanch
135 Hyde Road
West Hartford, CT 06117

Arnold Gundersen
139 Killarney Drive
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Messrs. Blanch and Gundersen:

I am responding to your letter to Chairman Diaz, dated December 8, 2004, regarding the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee). In your letter, you raised concerns about Vermont Yankee's conformance with its design basis and compliance with applicable Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations. Based on these concerns, you requested that the Chairman intervene in the licensee's application for a power uprate to ensure reconciliation of Vermont Yankee's design basis. You also sent an e-mail to Mr. Rick Ennis, the Vermont Yankee Project Manager, and requested that this letter be treated as supplemental information to the petition you submitted, dated July 29, 2004, under the process specified in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 2.206. Therefore, we will respond to the issues related to the design basis at Vermont Yankee in conjunction with the response to your petition.

In your letter, you expressed concerns about the engineering inspection conducted at Vermont Yankee earlier this year. NRC staff was available to answer questions regarding this inspection at the public meeting in Brattleboro, Vermont on December 16, 2004.

Furthermore, if you have identified any specific information indicating that Vermont Yankee does not meet applicable regulatory requirements, you are encouraged to provide that information to NRC so that we can evaluate the issue and take appropriate action. Thank you for taking the time to provide your concerns to us.

Sincerely,

/RA by RBorchardt for/

J. E. Dyer, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-271

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